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It's Time For..

First, seeing **tropical plants** at their best in the nursery (ask us about tropical effects for the sun); second, observing in full bloom the endless form and color variations of **Hibiscus**; third, setting out **bedding plants** for winter bloom; fourth, planting **bulbs** for winter and spring; fifth, planning **winter color**; and sixth, for starting a new feeding program for shorter days and longer nights.

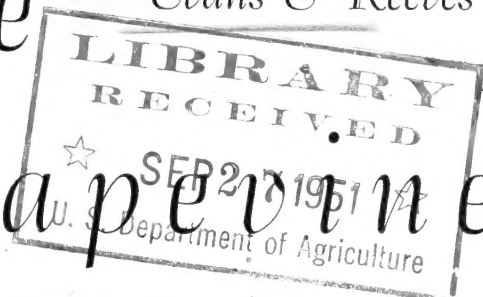
Large-leaved subjects such as **Alocasia**, **Colocasia** (elephant ears), **Bocconia**, and **Wigandia**, so extremely popular nowadays, are naturally in fine form after four months of warm weather and should be viewed for their possibilities at this time. But remember the "tropical effect" (which is the best we can do in this not really tropical climate) can be achieved, especially in the sun, also with bold-patterned **succulents**, **Yuccas**, **dwarf Palms**, **Melianthus**, and the like, which are handsome at all times of the year in all areas.

A few of our choicest **Hibiscus** we wish to call to your attention especially: **Maui Moon**, an enormous pale yellow; **Paradise Moon**, lemon yellow crepe with white center; **Honolulu**, an electric Chinese red, opens flat and large; **Patricia**, recurved salmon pink, new; **Haleakala**, deep brilliant yellow with red eye; the **Bride**, another giant in palest shell pink; **Kauai**, rose pink resembling the old Agnes Gault but the bush of slightly dwarfed more compact habit and the flowers blooming far into December after Agnes Gault is gone.

Bedding plants which bloom all winter must, as we advised you last year, be started in September, and thereby allowed to achieve their growth before nights are too long and chill (little annual growth can be forced after night temperatures drop below 45°). So get in your **Snaps**, **Stock**, **Calendula**, **Iceland Poppies**, and

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The Evans & Reeves Grapevine



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ROYAL WELCOME

Our rare subject of the month, the Princess flower, has a variety of aliases which suggest a shady background, which indeed this particular species has as regards its entry into California some quarter of a century ago.

Tibouchina semidecandra, the latest of a series of names which include *Pleroma macranthum*, *Lasiandra elegans*, and its common but exceedingly apt title, Princess flower, has a profusion of rich bright purple blossoms which debut daily, develop-

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Plant of the Month

Kahili ginger, that symbol of Hawaii with the spike of intensely fragrant flowers which graces gardens at this season of the year is, coincidentally, an adopted plant there, as it is here, being native to India and Malaya. Similar to the common Canna in foliage but more graceful, the ginger lily provides a cool, lush tropical effect at the hottest season of the year, with a bonus of huge richly scented flower spikes which win it the botanical name, *Hedychium* or "sweet snow".

Hedychium Gardnerianum, the Kahili ginger (a Kahili is an Hawaiian ceremonial mace, which the flower resembles), is the most robust of the Hedy-

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Hugh Evans

Some of the first plants from abroad which came into Europe and England were brought from Japan by the Dutch who were the earliest Occidentals to have a foothold in that country. With the granting of the Royal Charter to the British East Indian Company by Queen Elizabeth in 1600, considerable stimulus was given to the introduction of plants from abroad, but it was not until the latter part of the 18th century that the introducing of plants was done on any comprehensive or considerable scale.

By that time, the ships of the trading companies which had acquired a number of treaty ports in China and the far east carried on their decks greenhouses and Wardian cases for the safe housing of plants. They carried, in addition, botanists and trained gardeners, many from the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew. Sir Joseph Banks, the famous director of Kew Gardens, who sailed with Captain Cook, was indefatigable in the promotion and furtherance of these operations.

From all parts of the world ships were rounding the Horn, or the Cape of Good Hope freighted with horticultural treasures. Some of these, as Europe was in a state of war for a considerable period of this time, were sunk or captured by privateers, or enemy ships, and in many cases the plants were lost and the unfortunate plant collectors languished in a foreign jail. It is stated that the first *Cycas revoluta* (Sago Palm) a large specimen from Japan, was cut in half by a cannonball on its way over to England, an interesting yarn, though I am not prepared to vouch for its accuracy.

PRINCESS FLOWER . . .

(Continued from front page)

ing from fuzzy rose pink buds to magnificent three-inch flowers surmounted by ten curling purplish stamen. The bush itself is open of structure, carrying hairy green leaves touched with rose, and will reach ten feet in a well-drained situation protected from wind and too much sun. Uniform moisture and some acidity are also desirable for its culture.

Although other South American *Tibouchinas* had been grown in California for some time prior to the arrival of this Princess flower, none could match its size of flower and relative compactness of plant. This point was made to Mr. Hugh Evans by a noted visitor, W. H. Anderson, the foremost plant man of Sydney, Australia, who promptly volunteered to send specimens of this plant developed "down under". Straightway two were placed aboard ship and transmitted to San Francisco where they were inhospitably received by inspectors as they arrived without papers, and were forthwith burned. On receipt of a "censorable" commentary on the proceedings, Mr. Anderson shipped an additional three

It's Time For . . .

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Wallflower as quickly as possible.

And now for **bulb beds**: spade deep, turn several times working in bonemeal, Humisite, Bowsoilyfe and superphosphate, all generously. The first and last items supply phosphoric acid and potash, the Bowsoilyfe a well-balanced mild diet (none of these will burn), and the Humisite loosens the ground and keeps it friable. And make these beds serve double purposes — **bulbs and a cover of annuals**. After the daffodils are in, plant Pansies between. In a grouping of white Narcissi try blue and yellow Violas; Iceland Poppies with Dutch Iris; *Nemesia* with *Anemones*.

Stop feeding Camellias now, unless you belong to the school of thought which advocates feeding them lightly throughout the year. (Good results may be obtained from either theory if you're consistent). Also **slow up on your feeding program** for *Hibiscus*, *Distictis*, tender forms of *Solanum*, and all materials subject to frost damage in winter. Fertilizer now makes soft growth easily nipped later, especially if you're inland where winter cold damage is frequent.

Other plants at their peak of bloom in September include **Oleander, Cassia, Bouvardia, Tibouchina, and *Helianthus angustifolius***.

plant in the personal charge of the Captain of the steamer *Tahiti*, a mutual friend, and cabled ahead of their imminent arrival. This produced a rash of activity at the port of San Francisco* where the aid of the Mayor, also a mutual friend, was enlisted. He personally stepped aboard the ship and under his immunity escorted the Captain ashore, each concealing *Tibouchinas* beneath their overcoats! One of these plants can be seen today in Golden Gate Park, while from Evans and Reeves' have come all these magnificent shrubs in the West.

One gallon cans, 85 cents—five gallons, \$3.75.

INTRODUCING—



BARNEY MIXSELL

When you come into the nursery or call on the phone, and a young man greets you with a very sincere sounding, "How may I help you?", you know that you are talking to our personality of the month. These five words, which on paper may have all the earmarks of a standard cliché, when spoken by Barney Mixsell illustrate better than any long character description his approach to his job.

Barney Mixsell was born in Tacoma, Washington, in 1913. Learning must have been the keynote in the Mixsell household, for Barney and five brothers and sisters worked their way through college. Barney was graduated from Occidental College in 1936, in Economics and Sociology.

Upon graduation, he took a job with a railroad. But sitting at a desk didn't appeal to Barney, and so in 1943, he made up his mind to go into the nursery business. When we asked Barney where he learned so much about plants in such a short time, his modest answer was, "People were nice enough to take the time to explain things to me as I went along." For a number of years he worked for a nursery on the East side of town. Then he managed a nursery in Pasadena for a year. Finally, in 1950, Barney came to Evans & Reeves where, it is our sincere hope, he will stay a long time.

Landscape Lines

Last month we suggested that there were many substitutes for lawns, or in other words, ground covers, whether they be plant material or inert material. Which brings us to another type of cover—banks and slopes.

If the slope isn't too steep and the soil is fairly good, you will probably do what ninety out of a hundred do . . . you will get yourself some Ivy Geranium and plant it. Now Ivy Geranium is a good plant and a showy ground cover, in fact we use it in our own garden. But nevertheless, we sometimes think there is such a thing as too much Ivy Geranium. As a matter of fact, if the bank is steep or the soil not too good, there are many plants that will do a better job.

But it is a problem! Every slope is different in some respects and some of them are tough! In treatment, no plant can be recommended until we know practically all of the following: kind of soil, exposure, irrigation possibilities, erosion danger, permanent effect desired, planting budget and maintenance. See what we mean?

Here are just some of the slope covers we use, but before just going out and buying them, why not take it up with Evans & Reeves representative. Then perhaps you can avoid that pointed remark later on from the little woman (or friend husband) . . . "I told you so!"

They are: **Delosperma alba**—a moss-like green; **Mesembryanthemum (ice plant)**—many kinds; **Wild Strawberry**—needs water; **prostrate Ceanothus**—blue flowers; **Acacias**—several shrubby species; **Bougainvillea**—only certain varieties; **Veronica repens**—low, dark mat of green; **Evergreen grape**.

GINGER LILIES . . .

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chiums cultivated here, the stems often passing six feet, the flower head containing dozens of yellow tubes accented by long bright-red stamens. It is the choicest of the lilies for garden use with its broad dark green leaves, regularity of flowering, and a hardiness derived from its native Himalayas where it is found up to 8000 feet.

The cream ginger lily, *Hedychium flavum*, has larger, more open tubular flowers, widely used for leis in the Islands, which are pale yellow with an orange heart-shaped blotch on the lip. The plant itself is taller growing, the leaves narrower and of lighter green than the Kahili.

Butterfly ginger, *Hedychium coronarium*, is difficult to distinguish from *H. flavum*, until its delightfully-scented, large, pure white flowers with a light green blotch on the lip appear.

All *Hedychiums* prefer a rich soil, afternoon shade and considerable moisture during the growing season prior to flowering.

Five gallon cans with flowering stalks are \$4.

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